

To: Members of the Commission

The Commission's expressed desire to encourage availability of broadband internet access and services is commendable, but it should be extremely cautious in so doing not to impair or make more expensive the existing services, including dial-up services.

Service providers, whether broadband (i.e. Cable, DSL, etc.) or tradition dial-up (i.e. V.90, V.92, etc.) are NOT content providers per se; they merely provide the means of access to providers of content or information.

What has blurred this distinction is that many service providers (a major example is AOL) have chosen also to provide significant content in addition to internet access. However, a great many more, especially the smaller ISPs, do not as a matter of choice.

Speaking as a long-time internet user, I know that many users prefer unfettered and uncluttered internet access. When we access the web, we know where we want to go, which sites we wish to visit, and we neither need nor wish a cumbersome "front-end" like an AOL.

It goes without saying that we would all like faster connections (i.e. greater bandwidth) -- a 53KBs dial-up connection is terribly slow in this day of increased graphic and image content. But what we want even more is freedom of choice. This is best accomplished by assuring that the regulatory climate is as favorable to the small, independent provider as it is to the large. This means keeping regulatory policies and rules as unconstraining and as unbiased as possible.

Sincerely,
S. E. Bonney